Special Trains for Congress (I) Rally

3208. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to statee:

(a) what is the number of special trains and the total number of coaches so employed for carrying persons to the Congress (I) rally in Delhi on the 31st October, 1988;

(b) the number of persons so carried, journey charges in total, payments made and the remaining dues;

(c) the names of parties, their addresses towards which such dues remain unpaid along with such amounts;

(d) what is Governments policy regarding advance/after payments when coaches/trains are so booked;

(e) how many days in advance, such requests are entertained, and in the case of this rally when the last request was received; and

(f) the detention charges in the case of each of the above trains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA): (a) to (f) The information is being collected from the Railways and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Changing train timings without prior notice

3209. SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that timings of several trains, including Amritsar-Hatia/Tata-Chandigarh trains were changed on 3rd November, 1988 without prior notice in Press/Radio/TV; if so, what were the reasons therefor;

(b) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the Times of India dated the 2nd November, 1988 to the effect that the train timings would not be changed; and

(c) if so, whether Government would suitably compensate all the passengers put to inconvenience and financial loss?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA):

(a) and (b) On account of damage to tracks caused by floods in Ferozpur Division schedule of number of trains had to be marginally adjusted and this information was published in news-papers including 'Times of India'.

(c) Does not arise.

Amendment to the Haj Act

3210. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration amend the Haj Act;

(b) if so, what is the nature of amendments likely to be made;

(c) whether some State Governments have raised objections to the proposed amendments; and

(d) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) Yes Sir. There is a proposal to amend the Haj Committee Act, 1959.

(b) The new legislation aims at making the Central Haj Committee